

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: DE 101 09 620 C, R. Bosch GmbH (6/13/2002),

D2: US 2002/0050826 A, (5/2/2002).

**Re Section V.2.**

**V.2.1.1. Independent Claim 1**

**Novelty:**

Document D1 shows, in particular in Fig. 1 and Claim 1: a device (1, 2, 3, 12, and 13) for triggering ignition circuits (12, 13), the device having, in each instance, a positive and a negative output stage (8, 11; 9, 10) for each ignition circuit, each positive output stage and each negative output stage being assigned a drive circuit and a diagnostic unit, (see the preamble of Claim 1), positive and negative output stages being manufactured in pairs, and a positive output stage and a negative output stage from different pairs being provided for each ignition circuit (characterizing part of Claim 1 in combination with Fig. 1. The claimed cross coupling of ignition circuits of this Application is already known from document D1).

The subject matter of Claim 1 differs from the device of document D1 in that the positive and negative output stages are manufactured on a single substrate.

Therefore, the present Application meets the criterion indicated in Article 33(2) PCT, because the subject matter of Claim 1 is novel over above-mentioned document D1.

**Inventive Step:**

Therefore, the objective task can be seen as further

developing the known device to produce a more cost-effective design approach.

In order to achieve this object, as it was achieved in D2, for example, by using an ASIC, one skilled in the art of integrated circuits would always attempt to integrate the circuits as much as possible, i.e. to reduce the number of IC's.

Therefore, the present Application does not satisfy the criterion mentioned in Article 33 (3) PCT, since the subject matter of Claim 1 is not inventive.

**V.2.1.2. Claim 2 Depending From Claim 1**

Dependent Claim 2, whose subject matter is a further refinement of the invention according to Claim 1, also does not satisfy the requirements of the PCT, since the features of this claim are at least an obvious technical measure for one skilled in the art, (see page 3, lines 3-5 of this Application).

**Specific Comments Regarding the International Application**

Presently, it is not discernible which part of the Application could form the basis of a new claim that would satisfy the criteria mentioned in Article 33 (1) PCT. Should the Applicant still see some detail that is capable of this, then he or she should file an independent claim, which is drafted in accordance with Rule 6.3 b) PCT and takes this detail into consideration. In the corresponding response letter, he or she should also indicate how this detail differs from the related art and why it is significant.

The new Claim 1 should have been drafted in the two-part form.

New Claims 1 and 2

1. A device for triggering ignition circuits, the device having a positive and a negative output stage (1, 6, 8, 9) for each ignition circuit (17, 18), each positive output stage (1, 8) and each negative output stage (6, 9) being assigned a drive circuit (2, 7) and a diagnostic unit (4, 5), the positive and negative output stages (1, 6, 8, 9) being produced in pairs (12, 13, 14) on a single substrate, and a positive output stage and a negative output stage from different pairs (12 through 14) being provided for each ignition circuit (17, 18).
2. The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein the positive and negative output stages (1, 6, 8, 9) of the same pair (12 through 14) are each connected to the same power supply.